

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00440 231627Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 IO-13 USIA-06
COME-00 TRSE-00 /043 W
-----108777 232146Z /75
R 202259Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8873

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR F. MULHERN, ADMINISTRATOR APHIS FROM AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, GT
SUBJ: MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY

GUATEMALA/MEXICO MEDFLY COMMISSION CALLED EMERGENCY MEETING
WITH USDA/APHIS, PLANT PROTECTION PERSONNEL TODAY AS RESULT OF
RAPID BUILD UP OF MEDFLY POPULATION THROUGHOUT ENTIRE SOUTERN
1/3RD OF GUATEMALA AND THE ENTIRE PACIFIC SLOPE TO MEXICAN
BORDER.

COMMISSION DIRECTOR, JORGE BENITEZ, AND CO-DIRECTOR, SERVANDO
LOPEZ, WHO IS ALSO MEXICO'S AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE TO GUATEMALA,
REPORTED SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF FLIES BEING TRAPPED AT MEXICO
BORDER. FURTHER BACK IN GUATEMALA, POPULATIONS ARE SO HIGH
THAT TRAPS BECOME COMPLETELY SATURATED WITH FLIES IN THREE
DAYS TIME.

COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES REPORTED THAT COMMISSION FUNDS
PRESENTLY AVAILABLE COMPLETELY INADEQUATE TO CONTROL PRESENT
EMERGENCY SITUATION. THEY REQUESTED SIZEABLE ADDITIONAL
ASSISTANCE FROM USDA, INCLUDING INSECTICIDES, GROUND SPARY
EQUIPMENT, SURVEY MATERIALS AND FUNDS FOR PERSONNEL AND
PERSONNEL SERVICES.

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APHIS REPRESENTATIVES NOTIFIED COMMISSION THAT TO THE EXTENT
IT DOES NOT JEOPARDIZE MEXICO PROGRAM SURVEY MATERIALS AND
INSECTICIDES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM EXISTING STOCKS IN
MEXICO. NO COMMITMENT MADE FOR PROVISION OF GROUND EQUIPMENT
AND FUNDS FOR PERSONNEL SALARIES AND EXPENSES.

APHIS REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED COMMISSION THAT PRESENT ACTIONS IN GUATEMALA WERE WHOLLY INADEQUATE TO SUPPRESS THE RAPIDLY INCREASING FLY POPULATION IN GUATEMALA. THE PRESENT NUMBER OF STERILE FLIES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO SUPPRESS SMALL ISOLATED INFESTATIONS AND NO A WIDESPREAD OUTBREAK. BOTH GUATEMALA AND MEXICO ARE PRESENTLY UNWILLING TO ALLOW FLIES PRODUCED BY OIRSA IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, TO BE RELEASED IN GUATEMALA.

WITHOUT GREATLY EXPENDED CONTROL ACTION IN GUATEMALA IMMEDIATELY, APHIS REPRESENTATIVES CONVINCED MOST OF GUATEMALA TO BECOME INFESTED DURING THIS DRY SEASON AND FLIES TO FLOOD OVER INTO MEXICO ON MUCH GREATER SCALE THAN 1977.

GUATEMALAN VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE INFORMED BY AGATTACHE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND URGENT NEED FOR INCREASED EFFORT. BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSECT CONTROL, INSECTICIDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780141/aaaabint.tel
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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